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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/804,729	03/18/2004	Bao Tran	IPginecring-006	8262
31688	7590	10/13/2006	EXAMINER	
TRAN & ASSOCIATES 6768 MEADOW VISTA CT. SAN JOSE, CA 95135			KINDRED, ALFORD W	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2163	

DATE MAILED: 10/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/804,729	Applicant(s) TRAN ET AL	
	Examiner Alford W. Kindred	Art Unit 2163	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 and 20-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 and 20-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/18/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: Application, filed on 03/18/04.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 17-19 are objected to because of the following informalities: Claims 17-19 are missing from applicant's claim language leaving pending claims 1-16 and 20-40, when it should read 1-37. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-16 and 20-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kerven et al., US# 20020042784.

As per claims 1, 14-15, and 31, Kerven et al. teaches "receiving a search query for IP; identifying a plurality of IP documents responsive to the search query" (see paragraph [0015] and [0027]) "assigning a score to each document based on at least the citation information; and organizing the documents based on the assigned scores" (see paragraph [0027] and [0030]).

As per claims 2, 21-23, Kerven et al. teaches "wherein the documents are hyperlinked pages from the world wide web" (see paragraph [0007] and [0010]).

As per claims 3-4, and 24, Kerven et al. teaches "wherein the usage information for a document comprises usage information including the number of users who have visited the document" (see paragraph [0015] and [0028]).

As per claim 5, Kerven et al. teaches "wherein the usage information for a document excludes certain predefined users" (see paragraph [0027]).

As per claims 6-9, Kerven et al. teaches "wherein the usage information for a document is weighted based on the nature of user . . ." (see paragraph [0027]-[0029]).

As per claims 10-13 and 16, Kerven et al. teaches "wherein the usage information for a document is weighted based on the nature of the visit . . . access to the documents . . ." (see paragraph [0027]-[0029], whereas Kerven's teachings of usage utilization information includes the tracking of visits, as well as the frequency of visits as illustrated in applicant's claim language.

As per claim 20, Kerven et al. teaches "organizing the documents based on the usage information and the search query" (see paragraph [0027]-[0028]).

As per claim 25, Kerven et al. teaches "performing a network analysis on the documents" (see paragraph [0018]-[0019]).

As per claims 26-27, Kerven et al. teaches "receiving as a query one or more keywords or assignees to be searched; searching the query in Issued Patent or Published Application databases; retrieving cited prior art patents for each patent found in search results; updating the query by adding assignees from the cited prior art patents; and running a second search using the updated query" (see paragraph [0068]-[0070]).

As per claim 28, Kerven et al. teaches "clusterizing patents according to word similarity" (see paragraph [0022] and [0025]).

As per claims 29-30, Kerven et al. teaches "generating a visualization of the patents for display on a screen or plotting on a large format plotter" (see paragraph [0068] and [0114]).

As per claims 32-33, Kerven et al. teaches "caching results from prior IP maps in a remote computer . . ." (see paragraph [0037], [0068] and [0070]).

As per claim 34 and 37, Kerven et al. teaches "distributing a search over a plurality of client computers . . . IP user community" (see paragraph [0025], [0016]-[0018] and [0068]).

As per claim 35, Kerven et al. teaches "wherein one of the client computers is located behind a firewall, further comprising bypassing the firewall in sending distributed search results to a remote computer" (see paragraph [0003], [0006] and [0020]).

As per claim 36, Kerven et al. teaches "storing a patent at one or more local computers; and requesting the patent from one of the local computers in response to a request for the patent" (see paragraph [0022] and [0024]).

As per claims 38-40, Kerven et al. teaches "generating search metadata by an independent agent using one of latent semantic indexing . . . using the generated search metadata . . ." (see paragraph [0024], [0058]-[0059] and [0070]).

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alford W. Kindred whose telephone number is 571-272-4037. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 9:00 am- 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Don Wong can be reached on (571) 272-1834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Alford W. Kindred
Patent Examiner
Tech Ctr. 2100